

# **City of Rockville Environment Commission**

## **Sustainable Development and Energy Committee (SDEC)**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, June 19, 2012, 7:00 p.m.**

**Diamondback Terrapin Room, City Hall**

#### **1. Welcome / Agenda Review/Minutes Adoption**

- In attendance: Clark Reed, John Becker, Lea Rosenbohm, Devinie Rukshani Lye, Herb Winkler and staff liaison Erica Shingara.
- The meeting convened at 7:10. The May meeting minutes were approved.

#### **2. Environment Commission Report**

- The Commission interviewed 2 applicants for the vacant position.
- YERT Recap- over 100 people participated in the 3 viewings. The Commission has additional public viewing licenses and DVDs. The Commission will explore opportunities to donate DVDs to the public libraries and/or host another public viewing (nature center, Montgomery College, local high schools, etc.). The Commission will also explore other environmental movie opportunities for next year.
- Hometown Holidays- While the booth was a success and in a good location for the solar tracker and directing people to the library YERT screening, excess sound made it difficult to communicate. Potential improvements for next year include an overhead sign for the booth, child-friendly give-away for the prize wheel, and a location with pedestrian traffic but with some separation from the performers.

#### **3. Environmental Management Division Report**

- The proposed ordinance updating Chapter 5 (Buildings and Building Regulations) to incorporate the 2012 International Code Council (ICC) model codes was adopted by the Mayor and Council on June 18, 2012, discussion and instruction occurred on June 4, 2012. The ordinance will go into effect on July 1, 2012.
- On April 30th, the Mayor and Council adopted an ordinance to establish a high performance building tax credit that provides an incentive to existing commercial buildings that invest in energy efficiency and green improvements. Although funds were not appropriated for the tax credit in FY 2013, staff and the SDEC should work to educate commercial property owners on the program and assess interest and need for the FY 2014 budget.
- On June 8, 2012 the University of Maryland's Environmental Finance Center sent a letter confirming that the Sustainable Maryland Certified Executive Committee approved the City of Rockville's application for certification. The Environment Commission and supporting committees contributed greatly to this effort. The award will be presented to the Mayor and Council on October 4, 2012 at the MML meeting in Hagerstown. Rockville is the second municipality in Maryland to achieve this distinction.
- Through the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), water utilities (including Rockville) are partnering with TapIt Inc. to develop a regional water bottle

refill network. The TapIt community engagement campaign is set to bring together a network of area businesses that provides the public with free access to tap water to eliminate bottled water waste. Participation promotes tap water, protects the environment, saves the public money, and provides businesses with a free marketing opportunity.

#### **4. Courtesy Review- HDC Technical Guide for Historic Homes**

- The Historic District Commission (HDC) developed a new technical guide on *Increasing Energy Efficiency and Preserving Historic Authenticity* that is anticipated to be presented to the Mayor and Council in August.
- The guide is not intended to be comprehensive and detailed, but instead serve as a starting point in planning work at one of Rockville's historic properties. The guide refers to other national guidelines and standards and is intended to demonstrate that historic structures are not "frozen in time", but with careful thought and planning, owners can maximize value, comfort and performance.
- Preliminary suggestions were to reorder the top ten tips from easy to a higher level of effort (like the sidebar states) and to clarify some of the wording to make it more user-friendly.
- Action item: SDEC members should review the draft and email comments to Erica Shingara by Tuesday, June 26, 2012. She will compile comments and send them to the Historic Preservation Planner for consideration.

#### **5. SDEC & Kilowatt Crackdown Work Plan**

- The SDEC returned to the 2012 workplan and the ENERGY STAR Guide to Energy Efficiency Competitions, both drafted in March. The Committee discussed updating, refining and clarifying the goals and developing implementation steps for each goal. Goals included educating commercial property owners on the high performance building tax credit, green building code, economic summit, and energy efficiency competition.
- Action item: Erica Shingara will revise the draft workplan to include the revised goals and send the draft to the SDEC for additional revisions. When completed, the workplan will be brought to the Environment Commission for consideration.
- Discussed the step/work plan for launching a commercial energy efficiency competition. Potential launch in January.

#### **6. Member News / Announcements / Upcoming Events**

- Chair Reed presented a new concept for an online solar auction. A new website provides building owners the opportunity to post their roof information and solar installers submit competing offers to complete their solar installation.
- While the City/SDEC cannot endorse a particular company, the SDEC can evaluate solar power purchase agreement (SPPA) as an option that eliminates the upfront capital costs of renewable energy systems and lowers overall energy costs. SPPAs could be topic of a future case study.

#### **7. Wrap-up and Adjourn**

The next SDEC meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, July 17, 2012** at Rockville City Hall. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:25 pm.